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COSTA RICA

VESCO AGENT IN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE NAMED

[Statement by Deputy Jesus Manuel Fernandez Morales; San Jose, La Nacion, Spanish, 12 March 1973, p 4]

Here is the reply by Christian Democratic Party Deputy Professor Jesus Manuel Fernandez to the Presidential Press Office regarding an announcement denying that someone in that office was working for Vesco. Here is the text of the statement:

In a circular sent out for publication, the Presidential Press Office urged me to give the names of officials in that office who collaborated in the organization of the radio and television program and the press conference given by Mr. Robert Vesco.

I still maintain that this public appearance was organized by the Press Office; here are the facts:

1. There was an announcement on the bulletin board in the Presidential Press Office, which is used to summon press conferences and other public appearances by the President of the Republic or by the ministers or other high government officials, to the effect that Mr. Vesco was going to give a press conference on that day. The comments or conclusions on this fact are quite obvious.
2. The official presidential photographer, Mr. Cordoba, arrived at the editorial offices of some dailies in order to drop off photographs of Mr. Vesco so that the newspaper reports on the following day would provide the kind of coverage needed by that personality.
3. Mr. Alvaro Alvarez, who works in the Public Relations Office of the rural Guard, but who is on detached service in the Presidential Press Office every afternoon, bought time on some of the radio stations and television stations constituting the chain.

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4. The official interviewer of the Office of the President, Mr. Moscoa, appears with Mr. Vesco in the photographs taken at the press conference in the Costa Rica Hotel published by the newspapers.

All of these facts are obvious. The conclusions which any citizen can arrive at are obvious. They can issue all the press announcements they want, explaining, twisting, and even asserting that what I say is not true but in view of the conscience and ethics of his own fellow newspapermen, Mr. Nunez Perez will not succeed in changing things such as they are and this is why there can be no debate on this subject.

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